

thirds are growing and in good condition, and in a short time I hope to have this portion of our flora complete. Little or no attempt has been made to arrange the plants according to any system of classification, the chief aim being to provide natural habitats and surroundings, as far as possible. For a record of observations, made up to the end of the season of 1898, on the plants of the garden I may refer any one interested to Bulletin XVII of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick.

ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK.

## THE FRUITING OF *RICCIA NATANS*.

A. B. SEYMOUR.

*Riccia natans* is abundant in a small pond near Mount Auburn, Cambridge. Early in the season the surface of the pond is well covered with it, as observed by Prof. L. M. Underwood and myself in 1891. Presumably, it abounds every spring, but I have given it no attention since 1891, till now. Early this spring it was floating in great abundance along the shore of the pond. In June the pond, which is shallow, becomes filled with a growth of water-grasses and other plants, and the water in the pond is considerably lower than at first, even in a season that is not very dry.

The tendency of the winds is to wash the floating *Riccia* ashore and as the water recedes the plants are left on the mud. Weeds soon spring up and hide them.

I have heard conflicting reports regarding the fruiting of this plant. One says it fruits floating, another that it fruits on the mud. The fact is, that fruit is found after the spores have had *time to mature*. I have examined the plants this spring, from week to week, from the earliest indication of fruiting to the completion of mature spores. The first mature spores were found about June 1, on both floating plants and those fixed to the mud. Now, at the end of June, no floating plants are seen. Plants on the mud have abundant spores at full maturity. The fruit is figured in Gray's Manual.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.